Thales Delivers First CAPTAS-4 Sonar for US Navy

An artist's conception of the CAPTAS-4. *Advanced Acoustic Concepts | Thales*

The first CAPTAS-4 variable-depth sonar transmitter has been delivered to the U.S. Navy's Constellation Frigate Program (FFG-62). Advanced Acoustic Concepts (AAC), a subsidiary of Thales, delivered the first CAPTAS-4 sonar for the U.S. Navy's Constellation class Frigates (FFG). Prime contractor Fincantieri Marinette Marine awarded the contract in May 2022.

AAC delivered the system Oct. 12, 2023, ahead of contractual milestones while under very aggressive time constraints. Thales' sonar technology was chosen by Fincantieri Marinette Marine, in agreement with the U.S. Navy to equip its new frigates. In addition to the two systems already ordered to date, up to eight additional CAPTAS-4 transmitters assemblies could be supplied under the current contract.

In April, AAC will complete construction on a new CAPTAS production facility located at their current site near

Uniontown, Pennsylvania, where final assembly, integration and acceptance testing will occur for shipsets two through 10.
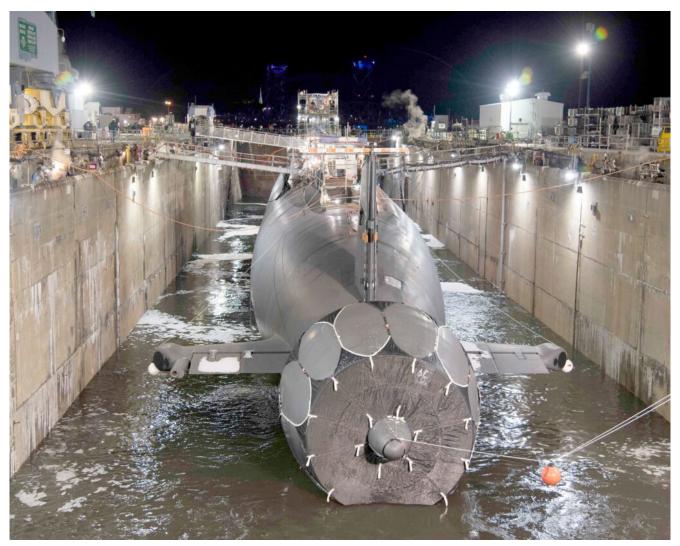
Thales has more than 50 years' experience in underwater warfare and is the world's leading sonar exporter. The CAPTAS family comprises a series of low-frequency variable-immersion sonars dedicated to anti-submarine warfare. The CAPTAS-4 delivered to the U.S. Navy is the most powerful of the CAPTAS family. It has been tested under a wide range of operational conditions for instance by the French, British and Italian navies.

In 2020, 2021 and 2022, several French multi-mission frigates equipped with the CAPTAS-4 system won the prestigious Hook'Em Award, the American prize for excellence awarded to the best crew performance in the field of anti-submarine warfare, during coalition exercises in the 6th Fleet area of operations. Thales was singled out and recognized for the excellence of its know-how, for the ability of its sonar systems to detect, locate, classify and pursue increasingly stealthy and silent threats under the sea.

"Thales is a long-time supplier of advanced and capable ASW systems to the U.S. Navy and major U.S. prime contractors. With this new contract for the delivery of CAPTAS-4 variable depth sonar, they are once again demonstrating the performance of our acoustic systems and renewing their confidence in our teams," said Gwendoline Blandin-Roger, Vice President, Underwater Systems, Thales.

Raven Warns of CR Impact on

Navy Department Budget

By Richard R. Burgess, Senior Editor

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Department of the Navy (DON) is facing a reduction of $12 billion of buying power if the Defense Department has to operate through fiscal 2024 under a continuing resolution (CR) and Congress does not pass a supplemental budget, a top DON official said.

"The misalignment in funding lines results in $26 billion of funding misalignments that we may have in our coffers — but not be able to spend it on the programs that matter," said Under Secretary of the Navy Erik Raven, speaking Feb. 28 to reporters. "When you add all this up, this is nearly a 10% impact to our topline. This is getting into the territory of the 2013 sequester in terms of fiscal impacts. So, this is a

very serious situation."

Raven said that if a full-year CR is the case, the DON's priorities would be readiness first and people second. "[W]hat that means is taking risk and investment programs. And I'm very concerned about our ability not only to execute that strategy unless given really unprecedented flexibilities by Congress, but also the follow-on impacts on industrial base and our modernization plans."

Regarding readiness, Raven said that current operations, such as the effort to defend commercial shipping in the Red Sea from Houthi rebels, would take precedence.

"We need to be able to perform our mission," he said. "And simply if we don't have the resources that we need to execute all of our missions, we have to make tough choices. But between the ability to fight tonight and be ready for all the threats versus preparing for the future and modernizing our forces it is a tough decision. But we have to lay our chips somewhere and that's on the ability to perform our missions today."

He listed a few programs that would be severely affected by a year-long CR and lack of a supplemental from Congress:

- The overhaul of the attack submarine USS Boise, delayed for seven years and finally slated, would not be executed.
- The amphibious assault ship construction program would not be kept on track.
- The Virginia-class attack submarine program would face a $2 billion shortfall.
- Munition funding would suffer "across the board."

- Construction of three child-development centers — two in Virginia and one in Guam — would be delayed.

- Doubling of funds for SM-6 missiles — used in the Red Sea operations — would not be doable.
- A $3.4 billion investment in the submarine industrial base — to enable production of submarines at a rate of one Columbia ballistic-missile submarine and two Virginia-class submarines — would have to be delayed.

SECDEF Announces Flag Officer Nominations

28 February 2024

The Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced today that the President has made the following nominations:

Active O-8 Flag Officer Nominations

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Mark D. Behning has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Behning is currently serving as director, Undersea Warfare Division, N97, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Susan BryerJoyner has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. BryerJoyner is currently serving as deputy director, Command, Control, Communications, and Computers/Cyber, J6, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Thomas R. Buchanan has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Buchanan is currently serving as commander, Submarine Group TEN, Kings Bay, Georgia.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Christopher J. Cavanaugh has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Cavanaugh is currently serving as commander, Submarine Group SEVEN/commander, Task Force SEVEN FOUR/commander, Task Force FIVE FOUR, Yokosuka, Japan.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Jennifer S. Couture has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Couture is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN, Everett, Washington.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) William R. Daly has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Daly is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group FIFTEEN, San Diego, California.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Dion D. English has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. English is currently serving as director, Supply, Ordnance, and Logistics Operations Division, N4L, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Erik J. Eslich has been nominated

for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Eslich is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group TWELVE, Norfolk, Virginia.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Ronald A. Foy has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Foy is currently serving as commander, Special Operations Command Africa, U.S. Special Operations Command, Stuttgart, Germany.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Patrick J. Hannifin has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Hannifin is currently serving as commander, Task Force SEVEN ZERO/commander, Carrier Strike Group FIVE, Yokosuka, Japan.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Gregory C. Huffman, has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Huffman is currently serving as U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Representative, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau/commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Marianas/commander, Joint Region Marianas, Guam.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Jeffrey J. Kilian has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear

admiral. Kilian is currently serving as commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific/director, Fleet Civil Engineer, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Kevin P. Lenox has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Lenox is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group THREE, Bremerton, Washington.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Oliver T. Lewis has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Lewis is currently serving as director, Strategic Integration, N2/N6T, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Marc J. Miguez has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Miguez is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group TWO, Norfolk, Virginia.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Benjamin R. Nicholson has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Nicholson is currently serving as commander, Expeditionary Strike Group TWO, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Elizabeth S. Okano has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Okano is currently serving as program executive officer for Integrated Warfare Systems, Washington, D.C.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Kurt J. Rothenhaus has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Rothenhaus is currently serving as chief of Naval Research, Arlington, Virginia.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Carlos A. Sardiello has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Sardiello is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group ONE, San Diego, California.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Ralph R. Smith III has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Smith is currently serving as deputy director, Operations, National Security Agency, Fort Meade, Maryland.

Navy Captain Lia M. Reynolds has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral and for assignment as Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Navy. Reynolds is currently serving as the Assistant Judge Advocate General, Operations and Management, Washington, D.C.

Reserve O-8 Flag Officer Nominations

The Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced today

that the President has made the following nominations:

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Bradley D. Dunham has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Dunham is currently serving as reserve commander, Naval Air Force Reserve, San Diego, California.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Scott W. Ruston has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Ruston is currently reserve special assistant to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, District of Columbia.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Douglas W. Sasse III has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Sasse is currently serving as reserve director, Assessment Division, N81, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, District of Columbia.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Gregory K. Emery has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Emery is currently serving as reserve commander, Navy Information Force Reserve, Washington, District of Columbia.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Dennis E. Collins has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Collins is currently serving as reserve commander, Navy Expeditionary Logistics, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Luke A. Frost has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Frost is currently serving as reserve director, Reserve Warfare, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, District of Columbia.

Reserve O-7 Flag Officer Nominations

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced today that the President has made the following nominations:

Navy Reserve Captain Benjamin E. Baran has been nominated for

appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Baran is currently serving as commanding officer, Navy Reserve U.S. Fleet Forces Command, N1, Norfolk, Virginia.

Navy Reserve Captain David N. Barnes has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Barnes is currently serving as deputy commander, Navy Reserve Region Readiness and Mobilization Command, Fort Worth, Texas.

Navy Reserve Captain Shawn G. Denihan has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Denihan is currently serving as chief engineer, Navy Reserve Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Maryland.

Navy Reserve Captain Michael L. Freiberg has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Freidberg is currently serving as regional commander, Navy Reserve Naval Information Force Reserve Headquarters, Suffolk, Virginia.

Navy Reserve Captain Reginald H. Hendrix has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Hendrix is currently serving as deputy commander, Maritime Expeditionary Security Group TWO, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Navy Reserve Captain Marcus J. Lockard Jr., has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Lockard is currently serving as commanding officer, Navy Reserve Pacific Fleet Command, N3N5, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Navy Reserve Captain Ryan K. Mahelona has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Mahelona is currently serving as deputy chief of staff for Warfare Readiness and Integration, Navy Reserve, Naval Information Force Reserve Headquarters, Suffolk, Virginia.

Navy Reserve Captain Jason M. Naidyhorski has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Naidyhorski is currently serving as deputy commander, Navy

Reserve Region Readiness and Mobilization Command, Norfolk, Virginia.

Navy Reserve Captain Troy S. Pugh has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Pugh is currently serving as commanding officer, Navy Reserve Indo-Pacific Command, J4 KIT, Camp Smith, Hawaii.

Navy Reserve Captain Katie F. Sheldon has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Sheldon is currently serving as commanding officer, Navy Reserve THIRD Fleet Headquarters, San Diego, California.

Leonardo DRS to Build State-of-the-Art Naval Propulsion Manufacturing and Test Facility Near Charleston, S.C.

PRESS RELEASE — LEONARDO DRS

DRS TO BUILD NAVAL PROPULSION FACILITY

Located in South Carolina.

ARLINGTON, VA, February 27, 2024 — Leonardo DRS, Inc. (NASDAQ: DRS) announced today that it has signed a ground lease in the Charleston, South Carolina metropolitan area to develop a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, allowing the company to grow its naval propulsion capability and streamline its support of priority U.S. Navy programs.

When complete there will be over 140,000 square feet of purpose-built advanced manufacturing, assembly and testing space representing an approximate net investment of $120 million by DRS. The new capabilities made possible by this investment will play a key role in the continued expansion of

propulsion system integration and testing for the company. Initial occupancy is targeted for 2026.

"We are proud to be building the next-generation electric propulsion system components for the new Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine," said Leonardo DRS CEO, Bill Lynn. "This new facility in South Carolina expands our capability to support our U.S. Navy customers on this and other critical programs that enhance the nation's submarine industrial base," he added.

When completed, the facility will have the capability to manufacture, integrate and test large components for DRS's advanced naval electric propulsion systems. The components include solid-state drives, designed and manufactured in the new DRS Menomonee Falls, WI. facility; electric motors designed and manufactured in the DRS facility in Fitchburg, MA.; control systems designed and manufactured in the DRS facility in Danbury, CT., and cooling equipment designed and manufactured in the DRS facility in High Ridge, MO. The South Carolina facility will have direct access to barge transportation on the local waterway and out to the open ocean for shipping these large assemblies to the company's shipbuilding customers.

"This facility represents a significant milestone in our ongoing collaboration with the U.S. Navy. We expect the unique capabilities in this new facility to be a national asset capable of addressing the Navy's current and future needs," said Jon Miller, senior vice president and general manager of the Leonardo DRS Naval Power Systems business.

Additionally, the new facility will also play an important role in spurring economic growth in the region through building a network of regional business partners, universities and other organizations that will work closely with DRS.

Leonardo DRS partnered with a team across state and local

governments, as well as regional economic organizations and the private sector to bring this project to the greater Charleston area.

Navy Pins First Robotics Warfare Specialist

By MC1(SW/AW) Jeanette M. Mullinax, Chief Of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

27 February 2024

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Rick Cheeseman, and the Navy's Personnel Plans and Policy Division (N13) Director, Rear Adm. Jim Waters, pinned Master Chief Christopher Rambert as the Navy's first Robotics Warfare

Specialist during an office call at Naval Support Facility Arlington, Virginia, Feb. 27, 2024.

The rating insignia reveal followed the U.S. Navy's announcement in [NAVADMIN 036/24](#), establishing the branch's enlisted career field for operators, maintainers, and managers of robotic and autonomous systems.

The establishment of the RW rating underpins the Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti's plans for building and developing "a team who has the reps and sets in sensors, platform autonomy, and mission autonomy programs, and can provide input in machine-learning feedback processes," a priority she discussed in her keynote address at the WEST 2024 naval conference.

Although Rambert is the first Sailor to don the new RW uniform rating badge, the development of the Navy robotics warfare community represents years of effort.

"It's a proud moment to see all the hard work that's gone into developing this badge, and just seeing it finally get codified and brought to life — to me, it signifies the hard work of the people around me," Rambert said.

From research and analysis to organizing working groups and designating individual subject matter experts, Sailors and Navy civilian employees have been working behind the scenes on creating the Robotics Warfare Specialist career field for more than three years.

Its founding has distinguished the Navy as the first Department of Defense branch to establish a dedicated enlisted workforce specialized in unmanned and autonomous technology.

"The RW rating is a major milestone in our Navy's relentless march to achieve a truly hybrid Fleet," Cheeseman penned in NAVADMIN 036/24.

According to Rambert, the DoD's hybrid force framework is a force multiplier, allowing Sailors to develop seasoned experience across the rating's multiple domains — subsurface, surface, air, and ground platforms.

With a background as an aviation electrician's mate, Rambert spoke to the tactical advantages that will come with the new rating's initial cadre — and the growing opportunity for future RW Sailors.

"You get the opportunity to go to so many different places," Rambert said. "If you look across the spectrum of the entire Navy, you've got Sailors that have the potential to really touch every single domain out there and that's very rare."

Rambert has served as the Navy's sole Robotics Enlisted Community Manager at the Bureau of Naval Personnel since October 2023.

"It's really an awesome feeling to be the first one to represent the rating," Rambert said. "And to see this rating finally come to fruition, you can see the level of excitement, and passion from the other Sailors that are out there."

Eligibility and Application

The initial selection of Sailors for RW conversions will consist primarily of active-duty Sailors currently holding robotics-related Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) codes. Sailors currently or previously assigned to billets in unmanned vehicle divisions are primed for selection.

Active-duty E-4 to E-9 Sailors who meet the above criteria can apply by submitting a NAVPERS 1306/7 Electronic Personnel Action Request (EPAR) form to BUPERS-328 or BUPERS-352 (SELRES).

The Navy's [Fact Sheet Focused On RW Conversion Opportunity](#) provides further details on the specific NECs,

ASVAB scores, and background requirements for applicants.

Rambert described the sought-after characteristics of RW candidates as being driven, adaptable, and motivated to become masters of the craft.

"They have to have [the] drive to want to be a part of something that might not be entirely defined by policy," Rambert said. "They need to be passionate about what they do because what they're learning now and the lessons learned that we take to the table later can have huge effects on the success of the rating as we progress into the future."

Rating Symbol Design

The rating symbol for the newly established Navy Robotics Warfare Specialist (RW) rating, announced in NAVADMIN 036/24, comprises an airplane propeller and lightning bolt crossed over a treaded wheel, all layered over a single wave.

Originally designed by Chief Aviation Electrician's Mate McLean Monaghan, the RW rating symbol comprises an airplane

propeller and lightning bolt crossed over a treaded wheel, all layered over a single wave. Each element represents a domain that U.S. Navy Robotics Warfare Specialists are expected to operate in to support the mission of the DoD:

· Airplane Propeller — Aerial Systems

· Lightning Bolt — The Electromagnetic Spectrum

· Treaded Wheel — Ground Systems

· Wave — Surface and Subsurface Systems

Feb. 27 Red Sea Update

USCENTCOM

On Feb. 27, between the hours of 9:50p.m. and 10:55 p.m. (Sanaa time), U.S. aircraft and a coalition warship shot down five Iranian-backed Houthi one-way attack (OWA) unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) in the Red Sea.

CENTCOM forces identified these UAVs originating from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen and determined they presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels and to the U.S. Navy and coalition ships in the region. These actions will protect freedom of navigation and make international waters safer and more secure for U.S. Navy and merchant vessels.

Coast Guard Cutter Alert Returns Home to Astoria for the Last Time

By U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area, Feb. 26, 2024

ASTORIA, Ore. — The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Alert (WMEC 630) and its crew returned to their homeport, Monday, after a 59-day counter-narcotics patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

This patrol is scheduled to be the cutter's last patrol out of its current homeport of Astoria, Oregon.

During the patrol, the Alert's embarked helicopter crew from, the Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON), based out of Jacksonville, Florida, sighted a suspected "go-fast" vessel driving on a northerly course and alerted the cutters crew. The crew responded and launched both of its small-boat pursuit teams. Due to the vessel's refusal to stop when

ordered, the HITRON helicopter disabled the engines of the "go-fast" and monitored until the pursuit crew gained control of the vessel. Simultaneously, the second small boat team recovered dozens of bales of cocaine jettisoned into the ocean by the suspected smugglers. The crew then worked tirelessly through the night to haul in and account for all 4,950 kg of cocaine, valued at more than $143 million.

The interdiction is among the Coast Guard's largest single interdictions in the Eastern Pacific and represents a major blow to the criminal organizations attempting to smuggle illicit narcotics through the maritime domain. Additionally, it serves as the capstone in Alert's time in Coast Guard Pacific Area, as the cutter will shift homeport in June to be stationed in Cape Canaveral, Florida as part of the larger Coast Guard Force Alignment Initiative.

"The crew worked in the margins, and we won big in the margins," said Cmdr. Lee Crusius, commanding officer Coast Guard Cutter Alert. "The return on investment from the Coast Guard to the American people continues to be demonstrated by our ability to project capabilities and rule of law within the maritime domain. Day in and day out, the women and men of our service are doing important business, protecting vital international interests from those who wish to subvert order."

The smuggling of cocaine represents a large threat to not only the health of nations and rule of law, but destruction of fragile ecosystems in its manufacturing and movement.

The cutter Alert was commissioned in 1969 and is the newest of three 210-foot Reliance-class Medium Endurance cutters stationed on the West Coast. It performs a variety of missions to protect Americans and American interests in the Northern and Eastern Pacific Ocean.

General Dynamics Mission Systems' Progeny Systems to Provide Integrated Shipboard and Shore-Based Management Decision Support System

Feb. 26, 2024

FAIRFAX, Va. — General Dynamics Mission Systems' Progeny Systems announced today that it was [awarded](#) a $22.4 million cost-plus-fixed-fee U.S. Navy contract for engineering and technical development and production procurement for an integrated shipboard and shore-based maintenance management-decision tool system. The contract includes options which, if exercised, would bring the cumulative value of this contract to $116 million.

Work will be performed in Manassas, Virginia; Groton, Connecticut; Port Orchard, Washington; Las Vegas, Nevada; Cleveland, Ohio; Chesapeake, Virginia; Pearl Harbor Hawaii; San Diego, California; and Kings Bay, Georgia, and is expected to be completed by January 2025. If all options are exercised, work will continue through January 2029.

"Progeny Systems is a proven provider of Navy mission readiness solutions for shipboard networks as well as shore-based systems and government cloud environments. Progeny's efforts on this contract will deliver systems that support commanding officers and type commanders in assessing command readiness of individual crewmembers, watch teams and critical ship systems for all nuclear-powered platforms," said Laura

Hooks, vice president and general manager of Maritime and Strategic Systems at General Dynamics Mission Systems.

[Progeny Systems](#) was acquired by General Dynamics Mission Systems in 2022. Headquartered in Manassas, Virginia, Progeny Systems provides a wide spectrum of capabilities and lifecycle support services for U.S. submarines and surface ships.

USS Bulkeley Completes Patrol in U.S. 6th Fleet Area of Operations

[By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joseph Macklin](#)

26 February 2024

ROTA, Spain — The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) returned to Naval Station Rota, Spain, following the completion of its Forward-Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations, July 26.

"I couldn't be more proud to lead this incredible crew," said Bulkeley's Commanding Officer Cmdr. Richard Slye. "Every Sailor operated with professional precision, achieving everything asked of them."

The ship conducted various port visits, exercises, training, escorting and integrating into various ships and groups throughout the 6th fleet area of responsibility.

During the patrol, Bulkeley operated with with Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 12 and USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) during their deployment. Bulkeley also escorted USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) and USS Bataan (LHD-5) on separate missions.

Also embarked during the patrol was the "Jokers" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 79, which is comprised of two MH-60Rs helicopters and 31 sailors, who executed 470 flight hours.

For more than 80 years, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF) has forged strategic relationships with our Allies and partners, leveraging a foundation of shared values to preserve security and stability in the region.

Headquartered in Naples, Italy, NAVEUR-NAVAF operates U.S. Naval forces in the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) areas of responsibility. U.S. Sixth Fleet is permanently assigned to NAVEUR-NAVAF and employs maritime forces through the full spectrum of joint and naval operations.

Feb. 26 Red Sea Update

From USCENTCOM

Feb. 26, 2024
TAMPA, Fla. — On Feb. 26, between the hours of 4:45 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. (Sanaa time), U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) forces destroyed three unmanned surface vessels (USV), two mobile anti-ship cruise missiles (ASCM), and a one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in self-defense. The USV and ASCM weapons were prepared to launch towards, and the UAV was over, the Red Sea.

CENTCOM forces identified the USVs and missiles in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, as well as the UAV over the Red Sea, and determined that they presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels and to the U.S. Navy ships in the region. These actions are taken to protect freedom of navigation and make international waters safer and more secure for U.S. Navy and merchant vessels.